

PUBLIC HEALTH IN NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS 1877—1983

- 1877- N.C. Board of Health established.
- 1879- Free smallpox vaccination; failure to comply with health regulations declared a misdemeanor.
- 1886- First issue of *The Health Bulletin*, the first publication of this type in the U.S.
- 1893- Passage of health act establishing rules of quarantine and giving Board of Health oversight and care of inland waters; systems of water supply and sewage disposal, common carriers and public institutions.
- 1903- Passage of bill requiring the registration of nurses.
- 1905- Laboratory of Hygiene established; compulsory vaccination in Hyde and Washington county schools upheld as legal.
- 1907- State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis established at Montrose in Hoke County.
- 1909- Position of fulltime State Health Director established with an annual salary of \$3,000, secretary of the Board to serve; Rockefeller Sanitary Commission organized to carry out hookworm campaigns.
- 1911- Organization of the Guilford County Health Department, the second county health department in the U.S.; organization of the N.C. Public Health Association.
- 1912- Organization of the Robeson County Health Department, the first strictly rural health department in the U.S.
- 1913- Vital Statistics Law (births and deaths) enacted; Bureau of Tuberculosis Control created.
- 1915- Free typhoid vaccination.
- 1917- Free dental clinics for school children.
- 1918- Laboratory began manufacture and distribution of biological products, i.e., antitoxins and vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, smallpox, typhoid, and pertussis; appointment of first dentist to a state public health program.
- 1919- Sanitary Privy Law.
- 1920- Sex hygiene education instituted.
- 1921- Law requiring the physical examination of applicants for marriage.
- 1924- System for county control over midwives established.
- 1935- Industrial hygiene program implemented; passage of the Social Security Act.
- 1936- School of Public Health and a Department of Public Health Dentistry established at the University of N.C.; Crippled Children's Service initiated; venereal disease control emphasized.
- 1937- N.C. the first state to include birth control as part of its public health program; procurement of the first Negro physician ever employed by a state health department; employment of a qualified nutritionist.
- 1940- Law requiring blood test of all expectant mothers in order to establish evidence of syphilis.
- 1944- Hospital and Medical Care Commission appointed.
- 1945- Compulsory immunization against whooping cough and smallpox.
- 1949- Mental hygiene program implemented, public health services in all 100 counties.
- 1950- Program for fluoridation of public water supplies initiated.
- 1951- Veterinary public health program instituted.
- 1956- New county health facilities provided by state, local and Hill-Burton funds.
- 1957- Enactment of revised and recodified public health laws.
- 1958- Registration of divorces and annulments required by law.
- 1959- N.C. first state to legislate compulsory immunization against poliomyelitis; Department of Water Resources created; radiation control services established.
- 1961- State's first Developmental Evaluation Clinic established in Winston-Salem.
- 1962- Registration of marriages required by law.
- 1963- Department of Mental Health created; air pollution control authorized.
- 1966- Screening of newborns for phenylalanine (PKU); distribution of live measles vaccine; implementation of Title 18 (Medicare).
- 1967- First liberalization of N.C. Abortion Statute; Multiphasic and cervical cancer screening; Emergency Medical Services Program established.
- 1968- Statewide Medical Examiner System implemented; Driver Medical Evaluation Program established.
- 1970- N.C. first state to conduct statewide nutrition survey; implementation of Title 19 (Medicaid).
- 1971- Creation of the N.C. Department of Human Resources.
- 1973- Legalized abortion (on request) and state's first freestanding abortion clinic; Division of Facility Services and Office of Rural Health Services created; legislation allowing adoption of reasonable standards to govern local health services.
- 1974- Enactment of National Health Planning and Resources Development Act creating Health Service Areas; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program; Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- 1975- Expansion of Developmental Evaluation Clinics to include screening of 4-year-olds; implementation of Title 20 (social services programs including various health services components).
- 1976- Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- 1977- N.C.'s Public Health Centennial; formation of Hospice of North Carolina, the first state association to assist local developers.
- 1979- Re-write of N.C. Immunization Law; new Human Tissue Donation Program.
- 1980- N.C. Solid Waste Management Act (for hazardous waste); creation of State Center for Health Statistics within the Division of Health Services.
- 1982- Creation of Environmental Epidemiology Unit within the Division of Health Services.
- 1983- Passage of the Safe Roads Act, recodification of N.C.'s public health laws.